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SPHERICAL HAND WARMER, BRASS

MIDDLE EAST; 18TH-19TH CENTURY

DIAM: 12.3 CM

Technical finesse has been a much-admired feature of a large number of luxury items from the Islamic world. A hand warmer like this one combines the practical with the artistic. Encapsulated in two decorative hemispheres is a little oil lamp suspended in a gimbal mechanism. This clever construction ensures that the lighted wick is always at the top no matter how the sphere is turned.

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